

THE
CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

VOL. II.]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1817.

[NO. 4.]

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY JOSHUA T. RUSSELL.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

OUTWARD BENEFITS OF CHRISTIANITY.

Dare one attempt any sketch of so wide and various a subject?

I. The Civil,

II. The Social,

III. The Literary,

IV. The Pecuniary, benefits derived to the world from the gospel.

I. A word as to the Civil Benefits.—Government and laws are consistent with liberty only where the gospel obtains. There may be law without liberty: this is despotism. There may be liberty without law: this is anarchy or savage nature. No where but in christian countries, no where but under the genial influence of the gospel, are liberty and law seen hand in hand.

Let it not be objected, that the same despotism prevails in some countries called christian, as amongst heathen nations. First, the *allegation is denied*. Where, for example, can any thing be found in christendom like this—to cut off the legs of the *son* of a deserter, because the *father* cannot be found: yet this is not uncommon in the kingdom of Burmah. High eulogium has often been passed on the government of China, but what government, nominally christian, would put a man to death for an *errour in grammar, in history, or philosophy?* Secondly, the union of law and liberty advances in a direct ratio, as the people are “rooted and grounded” in the pure gospel of Christ. The reason that so much despotism exists in Europe, is that the several nations have among them so little of the true *spirit and influence* of the gospel. Several of those nations, unhappily, are under the *incubus* of an ecclesiastical power, that seals the Bible against the common people. The effect is perfectly natural. Political despotism is the natural antitype of ecclesiastical oppression: political servitude the natural result of sealing the fountain of inspired knowledge. France attempted to assert her liberty; but France had not enough of the gospel to be free. She had abundance of ritual and superstition; but alas! she had, in its life and power, very little of the gospel. We need not fear to assert, that every nation in Europe has as much *real liberty*, as *real christianity*. With equal propriety may it in general be added—*there cannot with safety be more.*

The force of laws must be referred to the influence either of terror or principle. Where there is not conscience in the people,

there must be terror in the strong arm of power. A real christian, on the other hand, is, to the extent of his knowledge, by his nature, by the whole force of his principles, *a good citizen*. The charter of all his hopes has taught him "to be subject, not for *wrath* only, but also for conscience sake." What he does, is from a regard to the will of God, and the account he has to give at the judgment seat. Conscious of the perpetual inspection of his Judge, his retired, his most secret walks are ordered by the same rules, as guide his most publick course. No farther than he acts thus, is he worthy the name of a christian.

For such a man the law of his country needs no penalty, no compulsory power. For him the law is no farther necessary, than to *inform him how to act*. Am I, in the heat of fancy, describing a fictitious character? No; our country furnishes ample demonstration of the reality of what is here described. We know many such men as this: sufficient—thanks be to God, and the gospel of his Son—sufficient *to give a tone to America*.

It is a lesson almost for a child, that, in a community composed of such men, perfect liberty is compatible with perfect security. Security is the legitimate object of law. Liberty is the proper state of man: restraint, except the restraint of *principle*, is unnatural. The highest perfection, therefore, which a statesman can propose, is substantially attained by the prevalence of the gospel: certainly without the gospel, the world's sheet anchor, the world's last hope, it is unattainable. By all the value, then, of enlightened, and salutary legislation, are we to estimate the worth of the christian religion to the world.

Montgomery, Oct, 25.

A. B.

AFRICAN GENIUS.

It is disputed whether Africans possess a genius for improvement, a foundation in their nature, on which improvements may be raised. As this dispute has sometimes been conducted, it amounts to this question—whether the Bible history is true, and God has actually "made of one blood all the nations of men, who dwell on the face of the earth;" or whether the Bible be false, and the several nations have had as many distinct first fathers, as there are diversities of complexion and character existing amongst men? Let the infidel prove *his position* if he can, and enjoy the *special and diabolical satisfaction* of having taken away the last hope of man; but let the christian beware how he harbours, for a moment, principles which lead to infidelity the bosom of eternal night and misery.

Laying aside, however, the reveries of "philosophy falsely so called," what is the fact,—under all their disadvantages, what have Africans been able to perform?

There was a time, when at Rome, who became soon after the mistress of the world, it would not have been a question whether Africa could boast at least of *military prowess*; for her rival, Carthage, an African government, had too recently sent her implacable

Hannibal to thunder at the gates of the proud city; and not the Roman arms; but the vineyards of Capua defeated the triumphant invaders. The famous "*Delenda est Carthago*" proves how much Cato dreaded the military arm of Africa. But this is a sort of infernal excellence.

What then was the *learning* of Africa? We know she has been famous for learning. The Alexandrian library was a monument scarcely less prodigious than the pyramids, which are to this day the wonder of the world. When the Khaliff Omar ordered it to the flames, the Alexandrian library made fuel to heat for six months the baths of the city: *this was Africa*.

What has Africa done for *religion*? Africa has, according to the received account, given to the world, the Septuagint version of the Old Testament Scriptures; a work of incalculable benefit; a work which the holy Redeemer and his apostles read and quoted in their discourses. Africa was once adorned with christian churches, and her extended plains, sprinkled with communities of the faithful, resounded with the praises of redeeming love. Africa *fell late* before the corruptions of a secularized church. She long withstood the prevailing errors: purity of doctrine, purity of discipline, power of religion, have all distinguished the African churches. Africa has furnished a NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS for the "testimony of Jesus." Africa has had *distinguished theologians*, teachers of christian doctrine. Some of the most eminent of the christian fathers taught in Africa. Augustine, and Cyprian, luminaries of the christian church, were natives of Africa: Europe and America acknowledge their worth to the present day.

O Africa! despised, insulted, injured, bleeding Africa! Is it not enough that the sword of persecution "made havock of thy church?" is it not enough that the Roman ambition ravished thy country? is it not enough that the *dark cloud from the bottomless pit*, Rev. ix. 2. that mahomedan delusion and desolation overcast thy sky, blasting and annihilating the remains of culture and refinement? is it not enough that the victims of slavery have been sought from thy bosom by the foulest corruption, and by barbarous wars, originated and fomented to fill the market with the "sinews and the bones of man?" is it not enough that every avenue to intellectual improvement has been closed, and the most direct methods employed to corrupt thy moral and debase thy intellectual man? is it not enough, but we must deny the existence of thy germ of genius, the possibility of thy intellectual elevation? Double distilled injustice!!

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,

The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear;

Full many a rose is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

The writer intended to have cited some specimens of African genius, and capacity for improvement; but another time must be chosen.

Montgomery, Nov. 14.

A. B.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

FOREIGN.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

*Speeches at the thirteenth Anniversary.**(Concluded from page 40, vol. 2.)*

The Rev. Dr. Steinkopff, foreign secretary.

"My lord and gentlemen—I cannot help feeling solicitude and pain when I recollect that, at the thirteenth anniversary of this institution, I am for the first time unaccompanied by my friend Mr. Owen; still I trusted that my other excellent colleague, Mr. Hughes, would have relieved me from the necessity of appearing before you; in this I have been disappointed, a violent cold preventing him from speaking on this occasion. His importunity has prevailed upon me to break the silence which it was my wish and purpose to maintain.

"It would be unpardonable in me to detain you long; but when I consider the consolation Mr. Owen will derive from the kind sympathy excited here in his behalf, and the delight which has pervaded the assembly, it would not have been right in me to shrink back from expressing my feelings. I esteem it my greatest privilege to labour in this cause; and though sometimes these hands have trembled, and this heart has failed, and many an apprehensive thought has crossed my mind, that soon this body might perhaps sink under the accumulation of burthens, yet to spend and be spent in such a service is, in my account, the highest honour that can be bestowed upon mortal man.

"It was the intention of the Saxon and Wirtemberg ambassadors to have attended this meeting, but they are prevented by indisposition.

"And now, my lord and gentlemen, permit me to conclude. May it please Almighty God long to preserve this society in that purity of design in which it has hitherto been conducted; for it is my firm conviction that as long as we give the Bible, and the Bible alone, in simplicity and godly sincerity, looking to God only, and to the salvation of immortal souls, so long the blessing of the Most High, and the benedictions of a grateful world, will descend upon our undertaking."

Thanks to the Presbyteries in Scotland, Glasgow, &c. were moved by the bishop of Cloyne, vice-president, in the following manner:

"My lord and gentlemen—I shall detain you but a very few moments; but I rise to submit a resolution which has been put into my hands. You have been told, that, however we may differ in other respects, we agree on the important point of spreading the Scriptures of God and his Christ over the world. I rise, therefore,

as a bishop of the established church, with gratitude, to make this motion. The severe cold under which I labour, will prevent my attempting to do justice to it by any remarks which I might feel disposed to offer: nor would it be easy to do justice to it; for, not to mention what is due to the other parties concerned in it, if I were to name a body of persons who have assisted us most, it would be the reverend presbytery of Glasgow. But, situated as I am, I will not degrade it by my feeble and individual praise, but move, that the thanks of this meeting be given to the reverend the presbytery of Glasgow, for the continuance of their liberal annual collections on behalf of this society, and also to the several ministers and congregations generally, for their respective contributions and exertions, as well as to those friends who have enriched the library with copies of the Holy Scriptures, and other valuable books, in various languages."

The Rev. John Paterson, from St. Petersburg.

"My lord and gentlemen—Three years have elapsed, since, in company with my friend, Mr. Pinkerton, I had an opportunity of attending one of the anniversaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Since that time, as your lordship knows, we have been employed in promoting the cause of the society on the continent of Europe, and particularly in the extensive empire of Russia. What we then stated, as to the progress of the cause in the north, seemed to awaken universal attention; but the work was then only in its commencement. The foundation had, indeed, been successfully laid, and such advances had been made, as to excite the warmest hopes, as to the future grandeur and glory of the rising superstructure. But its progress since that period far exceeds our most sanguine expectations. Encouraged and assisted by the British and Foreign Bible Society; patronized and supported by the great and good Alexander of Russia, under the direction of our excellent and pious president and vice-presidents, with their co-adjutors; and, above all, under the blessing of divine Providence, the whole building, fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. In proof of what I assert, I need only refer to the report of this day, and to the facts which it contains—facts which must fill every heart with gratitude, and every mouth with praise; and which, while they inspire every individual, who has been instrumental in carrying on this great work, from the emperor on the throne to the humblest contributor, with holy admiration, will compel them to exclaim, 'Not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be the glory.'

"My Lord, the lateness of the hour forbids me to enter on a detailed account of the proceedings of the society in the north of Europe; I would only beg leave to observe, that the progress we have made, has tended to convince us, more than ever, of the great want of the Scriptures which exists in Denmark, in Sweden, in Finland, and in Russia; and the very means which we have used to supply that want, have led to new discoveries of it, and convinced us that the real extent of the evil is even yet but imperfectly

known. On a moderate calculation, not fewer than fifteen millions of copies of the Scriptures will be required, before every family in the north of Europe is furnished with one copy of the divine volume; and, after this statement, can it any longer be doubted, whether Bible societies were necessary, or whether any other plan could have been devised to meet the exigency of the case?

"It is gratifying to be able to assert, that the desire to possess the Scriptures in the north of Europe, grows exceedingly. Previously to the institution of Bible societies, this desire was, in a manner, dormant; 2,000 copies were sufficient to supply the annual demand for the Scriptures; now 200,000 copies would not suffice.

"We began our career at St. Petersburg, by giving notice, in the publick papers, when we had Bibles to sell; but the effect of those advertisements was, bringing together such a crowd, that it was almost impossible to proceed with the business of the depository; we have, therefore, been forced to employ secrecy, as our best and safest policy. But, though this shields us from the pressure of the crowd, it does not save us from the most urgent, and, sometimes, clamorous demands, made alike by the noble and the peasant; and, when all other arguments fail, they not unfrequently threaten to complain of us to the emperor, justly alleging, that it is his gracious will that we should furnish them with copies of the Scriptures, and falsely imagining, that it is from unwillingness, not inability, that we fail to execute his wishes. It is not less gratifying to witness their joy on obtaining the 'pearl of great price,' than it is painful to observe their grief on meeting with a disappointment.

"It would perhaps be too much to say, that all these effects are to be ascribed to the operation of Bible societies. Certain, however, it is, that they have been employed as the chief instruments in producing them. To do justice to the subject, we must trace the influence, whose effects we are describing, to a higher source, even to the God of the Bible, who will have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. As has been justly stated in the report, the disposition to meet these numerous wants, is fully adequate to its magnitude. If funds are wanted, the people offer willingly. Russian peasants have, of their own accord, come forward, and contributed, in full proportion to their circumstances and means. Bible societies are forming in every part of the empire; and they are literally doing prodigies. The society at Cronstadt goes on 'from strength to strength;' and it is worthy of observation, that this society, which is chiefly composed of naval men, has engaged two other naval stations to co-operate with it in the execution of its work. Nor is the Russian army less zealous than the navy, in this labour of love. The society at Moghiley, the head quarters of the Russian army at present, and which is patronized by Prince Barclay de Tolly, has, in the course of a few

months, sent to the parent society no less a sum than 17,000 rubles.

"The brave Don Cossacks, who are always foremost in the ranks, when allowed to follow the bias of their own minds, are occupied in organizing a society for their district, and have, in the meantime, contributed not less than 10,000 rubles to the common fund.

"But, my lord, it is impossible, in alluding to this part of my subject, not to mention the liberality of that most benevolent monarch, the emperor of Russia, and what he has done for the advancement of the Russian Bible Society. In addition to his annual subscription of 10,000 rubles, he has, during the last year, given the society 30,000 rubles, besides a magnificent house, and a portion of land taken from the imperial gardens: and he has declared, that, if money or hands are wanting to carry on the great objects of the society, he will furnish both. The exertions which are making in every country of the north, in order to meet the vast and increasing demands for copies of the Scriptures, are in proportion to the means they possess. Your time will not permit me to expatiate on this interesting part of the subject; allow me, therefore, merely to state, that the Russian Bible Society will, in the next month, have finished editions of the Scriptures in *sixteen* different languages; they are preparing them in *two more*; and when these are completed, they will have copies of the word of God to distribute in *twenty-nine* different languages. The measures at present taking to carry on this part of the work at St. Petersburg, are such as will enable the society to print more than 100,000 copies of the sacred volume annually. These copies will be distributed over an immense tract of country, to men of almost every nation, and religious denomination. Christians and Jews, Mahometans and Pagans, friends and foes, are alike the objects of this godlike charity; and it is interesting to know, that the Greeks, inhabiting the shores of the Black Sea and the Grecian Islands, have received from the Russian society the heavenly boon. The inhabitants of Mount Ararat have been blessed with the ark of the new covenant, the sacred deposite of the perfect law of liberty, and which teaches them, instead of paying a superstitious veneration to the supposed relicks of Noah's ark, to adore Him of whom that ark was only a figure. The word of the Lord, which has gone out from St. Petersburg, has entered Persia: it has reached to Ispahan and Shiraz; and, by means of its exertions, the immortal Martyn, though now dead, yet continues to preach the truths of the gospel in that interesting country. The light of divine revelation is rising on Bucharest: and the New-Testament is now read in that city in which the faithful Abdallah suffered martyrdom for his adherence to the truth it contains. Means are also using to effect an introduction of the word of eternal life into the populous empire of China; and, it is hoped, that, in a few years, a highway will be opened through Siberia into Chinese Tartary; and the Scriptures have free course from Irkutsk to Peking.

"Thus, the Russian Bible Society is lengthening her cords, and strengthening her stakes; she is breaking forth on the right hand and on the left; she prescribes no bounds to her exertions. Sitting as a queen in the midst of nations she diffuses the blessings of revelation to all around her. If you ask to what this success is attributable, I have no hesitation in saying, it is owing to the two great fundamental principles of the British and Foreign Bible Society—the distribution of the Scriptures without note or comment, and the admission of persons of all religious denominations, to a participation of its privileges and its labours. Wherever these principles have been adhered to, the Bible society has prospered; where they have been deviated from in any degree, there the cause has languished, and has continued to languish till there was a return to those principles. Built upon this foundation, the Bible society is breaking down every wall of partition:—it is cementing christians of all denominations in unity and concord:—it is diffusing amity and love even between hostile nations:—it is teaching men that they are brethren, children of one father; that they are partakers of the same privileges, and heirs of the same immortality. In a word, its line is gone forth to all the earth, and its words to the end of the world: 'Proclaiming, Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will towards men.'

The right honourable the president having left the chair, a resolution of thanks for his lordship's able conduct on the present occasion, was moved by the right honourable admiral lord Gambier, vice-president, and seconded by the Rev. Daniel Wilson, late vice-principal of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Lord Gambier.

"My lord and gentlemen—In moving a vote of thanks to your excellent president, I cannot but say, that, amidst all the proceedings of this meeting, none has given me more real pleasure, than the interesting anecdote related by an honourable gentleman respecting his little child. It reminded me of those words of the Psalmist, 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.' I will not say more at this late hour. I cheerfully make the motion which I have read to you."

The Rev. Daniel Wilson.

"My lord and gentlemen—I trust I may just be allowed to say, at the close of this meeting, what I am sure we all feel, that it has yielded to no preceding one in the interesting information afforded from so many parts of the world, and in the deep emotions which that information has excited. Except in the affecting circumstance of the illness of the Rev. John Owen, whose absence I have endeavoured so inadequately to supply, the day has been one of unmingled delight and triumph. In seconding the vote of thanks to our noble president, I am persuaded I may safely say, that every person in this assembly will consider himself pledged by it to new and redoubled efforts in this great cause; in proportion as the demands for the holy Scriptures from every quarter of the earth are

more and more importunate, and as the opportunities afforded us by the divine goodness for meeting them, become, as we have been hearing, more numerous and inviting."

The motion of thanks was carried by acclamation; and, after a few words of acknowledgment from the right honourable the president, the meeting was dissolved.

Extracts from the Correspondence of the British and Foreign Bible Society, published by their Committee the latter part of September last.

From his majesty the King of Denmark, written with his own hand, addressed to his Serene Highness, Charles, the Landgrave of Hesse, November 9, 1816.

The Bible Society, as it is now conducted, is excellent, and deserves all possible encouragement. The reading of the Bible is of the greatest importance in these times, (which present a strange mixture of superstition and infidelity,) and DESERVES THE UTMOST ATTENTION FROM EVERY GOVERNMENT.

From the Secretary of the Moscow Bible Society, to the St. Petersburg Bible Society. April, 1817.

With great anxiety we have watched a fit opportunity of sending off the Holy Scriptures to Georgia; and this occasion has now arrived. By means of his excellency Korneif, nineteen chests are to be sent into Georgia, along with a military transport, by way of the fort of St. Dimitrius. These chests, containing 400 copies of the Georgian New Testament, and 549 Armenian Testaments, are packing up, to be forwarded to Georgia in the same manner, by other transports. And thus our fellow-believers in Georgia, among whom even a manuscript copy of the New Testament is considered as a rarity, will soon be illumined by the light of the word of God, which rouseth those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and leadeth them into eternal life and blessedness. How will the inhabitants of Georgia, Imeretta, Mingrelia, and Armenia, rejoice to behold such a number of copies of the holy Scriptures, which make wise unto salvation, brought all at once into their native countries! What a vast number of interesting subjects for reflection do the Bible Societies of our day present to the enlightened and benevolent christian! Russia delivered, glorified, exalted! What cause of gratitude to Christ the deliverer! And this Russia now multiplies that book which contains in itself the way, the truth, and the life; translates it into the languages of nations still unacquainted with Jesus Christ; and puts it into the hands of all who thirst to know and to love Him who shed his precious blood for us upon the cross, and now sitteth at the right hand of his Father, interceding for our salvation.

The transport of Bibles from your depository has again quickened our operations here. A few days after receiving these Bibles, we

succeeded in sending off 300 copies to the different provinces, particularly to the archbishops and bishops, who still continue to demand great numbers of copies, to supply those of their flocks who are anxious to obtain them, whose number still continues to increase; and to satisfy whom, many thousands of Bibles and Testaments are still needed: so great is the hunger of our fellow-countrymen for the word of God.

By every post we receive petitions from all parts of the empire, praying to be furnished with the Holy Scriptures. The contents of some of these petitions, from the poorest of the people, are so striking and pious, that the reading of them draws tears of compassion from our eyes. A discharged subaltern officer writes from Cherson as follows: "I live twenty-three versts," (upwards of seventeen miles English) "from the city; yet I come to it every week on foot, in order to know from the Gazettes, what the Christ-loving Bible Society is doing, which our great sovereign protects and supports. Oh! how joyful it is for me to read, that all men are now striving to know the word of God! I pray God that he may lengthen my life, till I shall hear that all men are beginning to *live* also according to the word of God! I earnestly beg the benevolent Moscow Bible Society to send a Bible for me and my children; and on account of my poverty, gratis. I desire no other riches. The word of God! This is my treasure; possessing it, I am ready to die!"

Our Bible Depository is visited every day by people of all classes and denominations. On the day when the transport of Bibles arrived from St. Petersburg, a multitude of people assembled at the depository, desirous of purchasing. The sale did not commence, however, till three days after, when the Bibles left the book-binder. That morning at the break of day, upwards of twenty persons stood before the doors of the depository, which were still shut, patiently waiting to purchase Bibles. Since that period the number of purchasers daily increases.

From the London Evangelical Magazine, Aug. 1817.

INDIA.

(Concluded from page 43.)

CEYLON.—We must apologize to the brethren Erhardt, Palm, and Read, for not communicating to them our proposed plan, but shall take the first opportunity of forwarding to them the intelligence. They were in good health when they last wrote to brother Loveless.

The American brethren also in this island we hope will join us, as we correspond with them at present, and have lately received some pleasing intelligence from them.

They have in their possession the large church built by the Portuguese. The governour is the father of every good institution. The chaplains are very kind and affectionate, and the Wesleyan brethren are very devotedly engaged in their great and glorious work.

CHINSURAH.—Brother May was writing to us some time since, but his letter is not yet arrived; however, we rejoice to say that he is in good health and spirits, and his schools are reported to be in a flourishing condition. He has lately entered into the honourable state of matrimony with Miss Balfour, of Calcutta.

GANJAM.—The pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day, having almost depopulated that once healthy place, our afflicted brother Lee, with his family, removed to Vizag: there they remained for a little season, but finding no benefit from the change, they pursued their course to Madras.

Here they arrived September 8th, almost exhausted with the awful effects of the fever. Their passage was unusually protracted, and peculiarly distressing. For the space of several days they had no bread to eat, and though exposed to a vertical sun, and burning with the fever, yet no water could be procured except one cask from a brig which passed them, and from the surrounding current which floated their bark; their oil and candles were quite exhausted, so that the rind of bacon was used as a substitute. Amidst all their distress, sister Lee was confined; but through the gracious kindness of our heavenly Father, both root and branch were spared. During the whole passage, the captain treated them with the utmost kindness, which brother and sister Lee never will forget. Since their arrival they have gradually recovered, and are now in a convalescent state, and waiting for a passage to return to their station.

MADRAS.—The Missionary Chapel which was erected in 1810 by the liberal contribution of several valuable friends, is still supported by the hand of munificence. In this sacred place we have frequent opportunities of preaching the glorious gospel. On Sunday morning and evening, and on Wednesday evening, many assemble to hear the word of life. Every Friday evening we hold a prayer-meeting, and a missionary prayer-meeting the first Monday in the month.

VEPERY.—Brother Loveless has lately opened his large school-room for divine service, and we rejoice in the hope that God will bless his word to the great numbers that attend.

FORT.—Here we preach Monday and Thursday evenings to some of our countrymen belonging to the army. A few of them are pious, and very earnest with their comrades to join them, but they care for none of these things.

MOUNT.—This is situated eight miles from Madras, whither we go on Fridays to preach to the soldiers. A little society has long been here, who meet in a house left for that purpose by a pious serjeant-major.

The Missionary Free School which stands on the right-hand side of the chapel, which was built by contribution of several valuable friends, is still liberally supported. From this institution, great good, we hope, will arise. The lad who copied this letter had the chief part of his instruction there: 197 boys have been educated in it since it was opened in 1815, and 147 boys are on the present establishment.

The Missionary Free School for girls, on the left-hand side in the chapel garden, is begun, and all the money subscribed, which will be required for its completion. The building of it will cost about 380 pagodas, and one wealthy gentleman has given towards it no less than 21 pagodas, and a subscription of 8 pagodas per month.

Our native schools at Pudemettoo, Choolay Bazar, Hospital Gate, Elephant Gate, and Popham's Broadway, contain about 250 children. They are yet in a state of infancy, but promise fair to be productive of good. The children are intelligent and active, and amidst the ashes of fallen nature exhibit many a spark of celestial glory to the attentive eye, while the anxious breast longs for the fruition of its hopes in the salvation of their souls.

The Missionary Friend Society was established in 1814. The first year it remitted to the parent institution 120 pagodas; the second, 150 pagodas; and the last four months has produced 70 pagodas. The arrival of the Moira, Aug. 26, added greatly to our missionary strength. The brethren Townley and Keith remained with us one day, and proceeded to Calcutta. Brother Reeve continued with us till September 12, when he departed for Bellary.

On the 24th of October, brother Skinner, of Surat, was united in the honourable state of matrimony with Miss Sophia Smith. The 12th of December, they left us, and travelled over land to Tellicherry, whither they safely arrived in about twenty days after they left Madras: Miss Smith accompanied them.

Brother Mead has attached himself to this mission, and brother Render is residing at Royabettah, where he preaches in his own house on Sunday evening, and at St. Thome on Sunday morning. He has an English school, a Malabar school, and a Gentoo school.

Rev. Mr. Rennius, the church missionary here, possesses the true spirit of his office. He has made great proficiency in the language; has commenced preaching, and has one flourishing school of long standing, and others just opened, and is about to lay the foundation of a missionary church in the middle of the town.

Rev. Mr. Lynch, of Mr. Wesley's connection, is expected here shortly. During the last year several pious chaplains have arrived here, and are now residing at various settlements. Two church missionaries have also arrived, and we hope soon to hear that they are safely settled on the south-west coast.

There is here an excellent institution for relieving the distressed, called the Friend in Need Society, under the patronage of the Rev. M. Thompson, by which upwards of 120 persons are relieved monthly.

SURAT.—The brethren Skinner and Fyvie are labouring with great diligence and delight in this ancient city. They have made some considerable progress in the Guzerattee language, are forming a vocabulary and grammar, and have nearly translated the epistle to the Galatians. Their native school consists of 40 children.

VIZAGAPATAM.—No official accounts have arrived from the brethren, but from private letters we are glad to know that Mr. Gordon is well, and vigorously engaged in his mission. Mr. Dawson is also much recovered from his late indisposition.

(Signed)

W. C. LOVELESS,
RICHARD KNILL,
CHARLES MEAD.

February, 1817.

From the Religious Remembrancer.

INTERESTING INFORMATION.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in England to his friend in this city, dated

"LONDON, 24th July, 1817.

"It is gratifying to learn, that the very important object of colonizing the free people of colour in the United States, is likely to be persevered in, and that many influential publick characters have taken a part in the formation of the society for that purpose: it may be viewed, I hope, as a step towards the gradual extinction of slavery throughout the whole country, an event which every thinking mind and especially every christian must ardently desire. National sins are, alas! in general thought lightly of; but they who mark the course of the divine dealings as well with nations as individuals, will view such crimes, if unrepented of, and unforsaken, as sure to bring down the divine vengeance sooner or later. One who had felt something of the enormity of transgression could exclaim, 'rivers of tears run down mine eyes because men keep not thy law.'

"The remaining reports of the African Institution will probably have reached you ere this, and should any information be desired in this quarter with a view to forward the important object of the society, it will be sought for with much pleasure.

"The great augmentation of funds to the American Bible Society is matter of rejoicing; and, possessed with the means of extensive usefulness, may the wisdom from on high, which is so needful to direct, be abundantly vouchsafed to them, so that many a moral wilderness may be made to blossom as the rose through their instrumentality. Whilst there is so much land to be possessed in the immediate sphere of the Philadelphia Bible Society, they will no doubt continue most beneficially and efficiently employed therein; and whilst all have the same grand object, they will sincerely rejoice in each other's prosperity and success, unitedly desiring that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdoms of our Lord. Whilst the means of circulating the written word are increasing, it is delightful to observe that living teachers are preparing to go forth in greater abundance to proclaim the everlasting gospel, and that the Theological Seminary at Princeton presents so favourable an aspect. The numerous applicants to the college must be a cheering circumstance to our friend Dr. G——, and, as you justly observe, is the

best test of public opinion on the conduct that has been adopted. Such an institution can only be maintained in its respectability and usefulness by firmness and decision on the point of discipline, and as this is preserved or neglected, it is a national blessing or a national curse, as its streams will either purify or pollute the land.

"So soon as Mr. M——'s application is received, a supply of the Scriptures in Spanish will no doubt be cheerfully granted by the British and Foreign Bible Society. South America is looked upon as a most important field of operation, and it is desirable to use every channel of success that is presented for circulating the heavenly treasure in that destitute land.

"The Society is now preparing an edition of the New Testament in the French and English languages, in parallel columns, with an especial design for the Haytians, the emperor having expressed a great desire for its distribution in this form amongst his subjects; at the same time, as there is reason to believe that missionaries may be well received in that quarter, the propriety of immediately sending out some suitable persons, is under the serious consideration of the London Missionary Society, whose means have been wonderfully increased within a few years past. Mr. Read and others who accompanied him from Bethelsdorp to Latakoo, in the interior of South Africa, have now been heard of as having been favoured to reach that distant place in safety, and allowed by the king, according to his promise to Mr. Campbell, to remain there under his protection. May this be an opening for Britain to repay some part of the mighty debt she owes to injured Africa, by instructing her in the glorious liberty of the gospel, instead of imposing on her sons as formerly, the galling yoke of slavery. In this blessed work we are warranted to ask and to look for success, for it is the work of him who came 'to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and to let the oppressed go free.'

"Of the prosperity of the Bible cause in Russia, you will form some opinion by the inclosed account of the fourth anniversary held last month at St. Petersburg, which will afford you equal delight as it has done to its numerous friends here. Allow me to suggest that a little printed sheet of this kind occasionally, with any intelligence peculiarly interesting, is found beneficial to the great object, keeping the public mind alive to its importance, and exciting a spirit of emulation and activity.

"A missionary intended for the Tartar tribes has lately reached St. Petersburg, and been most cordially received, the emperor having directed his minister to give the fullest assurance to the treasurer of the Missionary Society, that his countenance and protection will be afforded to him. It is gratifying to find the way thus prepared by Him who has all hearts at his disposal."

DOMESTICK.

—
SYNOD OF PITTSBURGH.

Narrative of the state of Religion within the bounds of the Synod of Pittsburgh, Pa. Oct. 10, 1817.

The committee appointed to condense the reports of the Presbyteries on the state of religion, reported—

That it appears from the several reports, that although vice and immorality in many places prevail, and that many are careless and unconcerned in the things that belong to their eternal peace, yet there is reason to be grateful to the God of all grace, that he has not been provoked to take the Holy Spirit from the churches under their care; but is convincing and converting sinners, and building up believers in their most holy faith.

In the Presbytery of Hartford, there is an increased attention to religion, and very evident tokens of the presence of God comforting and building up believers, and awakening the careless, in some of their congregations.

In the Presbytery of Erie, there is a general, and in a few of their churches, an increased attention to the preaching of the gospel; and Bible classes have been formed in some, and the concert of prayer is observed in most of their churches.

In the Presbytery of Redstone, the concert of prayer has been observed: there has been a general and decent attention to the ordinances of the gospel. In the city of Pittsburgh, and elsewhere, there are a number of praying societies, and Bible classes have been formed in several of their congregations, and are well attended.

In the Presbytery of Grand River, the state of morals and society is gradually improving; their congregations manifest an increasing desire for the preaching of the gospel. Some new societies have been formed, and the number of labourers in the vineyard increased: and considerable attention is paid to the education of pious young men for the gospel ministry. Female charitable societies, auxiliary education and Bible societies, and male and female praying societies are multiplied; and in several places God has graciously poured out his Spirit, and numbers have hopefully been born into his kingdom. In other places individuals are inquiring, with anxious solicitude, what they shall do to be saved. The prospects are such as ought to animate, rather than discourage—such as ought to fill their hearts with gratitude and praise to God, and inspire an animating hope, that God, in covenant faithfulness, will ere long, make the wilderness blossom as the rose.

In the Presbytery of Ohio, there is an increasing attention to the means of grace. The monthly concert of prayer is well observed: female societies, auxiliary to the Western Missionary Society, have been formed in several of their congregations, who cheerfully engage to retrench their own personal expenses, that they may aid the cause of missions.

The number of praying societies is also increased; in four or five congregations, there are evidences of a work of the Spirit of God: the Spirit of grace and supplication has been poured out—many are awakened and anxiously inquiring what they shall do to be saved; some are rejoicing in hope, and exhibiting encouraging evidences that God has called them out of darkness into his marvellous light.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"MY FATHER'S AT THE HELM!"

An Incident spiritually improved.

'Twas when the seas with hideous roar,
A little bark assail'd,
And pallid fear with awful pow'r
O'er each on board prevail'd.

Save one, the captain's darling child,
Who fearless view'd the storm,
And playful, with composure smil'd,
At danger's threat'ning form.

"Why sporting thus?" a seaman cries,
"While sorrows overwhelm?"
"Why yield to grief?" the boy replies,
"*My father's at the helm!*"

Poor doubting soul, from hence be taught
How groundless is thy fear;
Think on the wonders Christ hath wrought,
And he is always near!

Safe in his hands, whom seas obey,
When swelling surges rise;
Who turns the darkest night to day,
And brightens low'ring skies.

Though thy corruption rise abhorr'd,
And outward foes increase,
'Tis but for him to speak the word,
And all is hush'd to peace.

Then upward look, howe'er distress'd
Jesus will guide thee home;
To that blest port of endless rest,
Where storms shall never come.

[*London Evang. Magazine.*]

BALTIMORE:

PRINTED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOHN D. TOY, CORNER OF MARKET AND LIGHT STREETS, AT FOUR DOLLARS A YEAR,
PAYABLE HALF YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

Any person becoming responsible for eight sets shall be entitled to the ninth gratis.